

**From:** John Ford  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/20/02 11:21 am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Letter to Ashcroft

John F. Ford Jr.

Telephone 910-846-2235

E-mail [john@j-ford.com](mailto:john@j-ford.com)

135 Burlington St W

Holden Beach, NC 28462

January 20, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to take a moment to express my support for the settlement reached last year between Microsoft and the Justice Department. There is no doubt ending this litigation is in the public's interest and will benefit the computer industry.

The terms of the settlement are comprehensive and require many adjustments to Microsoft's former business practices. One area of change is in the area of intellectual property rights. Microsoft has agreed that if a third party's exercise of any options provided for by the settlement would infringe any Microsoft intellectual property right, Microsoft will provide the third party with license to the necessary intellectual property on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. Also, any third party who feels Microsoft is falling short of their obligations can lodge a complaint with a Technical Committee to be formed under the agreement.

The settlement will give a boost to the economy during this current recession. I hope your support for this settlement will continue and no further action will be taken on the federal level.

Sincerely,

John Ford

